

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC UN WFC

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC--WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR AKHUND (PRES. ECOSOC) HE EXPRESSED "OUTRAGE" AT WFC PROCEEDINGS IN ROME. HE STATED THAT IT WAS A SHAME THAT AFTER THE CAREFUL NUTURING OF A COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN G-77 AND USG OVER PAST SIX MONTHS "A "COUPLE OF IDIOTS WERE ALLOWED TO GET LOOSE". AMBASSADOR AKHUND FURTHER STATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM AROSE OUT OF FACT THAT HIS COLLEAGUE, THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR IN ROME WHO HAD BEEN RAPPORTEUR OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND WAS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77, WAS SUDDENLY RE-ASSIGNED ON THE EVE OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO AKHUND, THE SUCCESSOR PAKINSTANI AMBASSADOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE G-77 IN ROME KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE UN OR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OR THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AND BARELY KNEW WHAT THE G-77 REALLY WAS. AKHUND FURTHER OPINED THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN SOPHISTICATED POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ON THE 77 SIDE, THE CONFRONTATION WOULD NOT HAVE ARISEN. FINALLY, AKHUND STATED THAT THE G-77 HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE WFC SECRETARIAT WAS IMBALANCED AND SHOULD BE CORRECTED, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT HAD BY NO MEANS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE ISSUE

WAS TO BE RAISED BY CONFRONTATION.

2. AKHUND STATED FURTHER THAT HE EXPECTS MUCH DIFFICULTY FROM MEXICO WHEN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE REPORT COMES UP FOR ACTION ON MONDAY, JULY 21.

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR BARCELO (MEXICO) CONTINUES TO GIVE USG PARTICULAR PROBLEMS AS HE DID LAST YEAR. IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT IN LAST SUMMER'S ECOSOC TWO SEPARATE DEMARCHES WERE MADE IN MEXICO CITY PROTESTING HIS PERFORMANCE ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THE OMINOUS RESOLUTION. THIS YEAR HE SEEMS TO HAVE STARTED AGAIN WITH OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS ON THE TRANSPORTATION OF DANGEROUS GOOD ITEMS.

4. AKHUND'S ANALYSIS REAFFIRMS OUR OWN OPINION REPORTED GENEVA 5500 THAT AN UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE WAS A RELATIVE NON-POLITICAL SOHISTICATION OF G-77 REPS IN ROME. END COMMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP REFRESHED INSTRUCTIONS ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ITEM. IF WE CAN GET INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE WEEKEND, WILL GIVE US OPPORTUNITY OF CONSULTING AND CONFERRING WITH ALL GROUPS AND BUREAUS TO ISOLATE TROUBLEMAKERS, PRINCIPALLY THE MEXICANS. ABRAMS

NOTE BY OC/T: COORDINATED WITH S/SO, D.MACK.

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